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III.—*Geographical Account of Albania, extracted from a Manuscript of COUNT KARACZAY.*

UNDER this name is comprehended that western portion of the Turkish empire in Europe, bounded on the N. by Bosnia and Servia; on the E. by Rum Ili, or rather that portion of Rum Ili which was called Macedonia by the ancients; and on the S. by Epirus; on the W. it is washed by the Adriatic. It lies between $40^{\circ} 25'$ and 43° N. lat., and between 19° and $21^{\circ} 20'$ E. long.

THE SEA-COAST OF ALBANIA.—The coast-line of Albania, between the Gulf of C  ttaro and Porto Palermo, S. of Cape Linguetta (Turk., Karaburnu), is about 240 miles long, when the windings of the coast are taken into account. The most northern portion, which is under the dominion of Austria, has three good harbours, the Gulf of C  ttaro, and the harbours of Traste and Budua; and its inhabitants are among the best seamen of the Mediterranean. The coast from Antivari to Avlona is not much frequented, partly on account of the want of good harbours and the dangerous navigation, and partly because vessels touching at any place on it are subject to quarantine. The anchorage is for the most part bad, and there is rarely any shelter from the winds and the sea; besides, the inhabitants are shy of strangers. Still this shore has some harbours, and is not in this respect so badly off as the opposite coast of Italy. From Budua to Porto Medua ($41^{\circ} 48'$ N. lat.) the sea has a considerable depth close in land, and large vessels find sufficient water at about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from shore; but from Porto Medua to Avlona vessels cannot approach nearer than a mile, if they draw 20 feet of water. Near Cape Linguetta, and to the S. of it, the coast is rocky, and deep water is found close to the shore.

The N.E. wind, called Bora, is dreaded, not so much on account of its violence as of the suddenness with which it sets in. The signs which usually foretell its approach are small dark clouds surrounding the summits of the mountains, and moving in different directions; sometimes white clouds of a round form hover over the mountains, and the sea is very low. On the contrary, the scirocco, or scilocco, a south-eastern wind, causes the sea to run extremely high, when, as is commonly the case, it continues to blow three days in succession. Its approach is indicated by black clouds covering the mountains, a higher rise of the sea, and an increased temperature. This wind brings much rain.

The strait dividing Cape Linguetta from Otranto is only about 42 miles wide. The following are the harbours of Albania:—

The Gulf of C  ttaro (Le Bocche di C  ttaro) is a deep inlet

of the sea, surrounded by high mountains. It is nearly 30 miles long, measured along a line which keeps the mid-channel, and consists of three basins connected with one another by straits. The strait at its entrance is called Punta d'Ostro, the second Kambur, and the innermost Bocca de Loretane. The last mentioned is the most narrow, being at its western end 200 feet, and at its eastern only 160 feet wide. The narrowest portion is called Le Catene. The second and third basins form excellent harbours, being protected against all winds by high hills and mountains. The depth of water varies from 15 to 25 fathoms.

The Bay of Traste is divided from the Gulf of C  ttaro by an isthmus about 3 miles across. This isthmus is formed by a ridge of limestone hills, of moderate elevation, in which good marble is found. The bay has safe and good anchorage, and as a harbour is not inferior to Lissa; but the surrounding country is nearly uninhabited.

The harbour of Budua has good anchorage, but is open towards the S., and exposed to the effects of the S.E. wind.

The harbours of Antivari and Val di Noce, near Dulcigno, have not sufficient depth for large vessels, and are not protected from the sea and wind, when it blows from the W.S.W.

Vessels of moderate size can enter the river Boyana, and sail up it for many miles.

Farther S. are two small harbours; one called Porto S. Giovanni di Medua, and the other Lacheke. They are situated N. and S. of the embouchure of the river Drin, and have tolerably good anchorage. Anchorage is also found in the Gulf of Drin, at the custom-house (Dogana), E. of Cape Redoni. There is also safe anchorage both on the N. and S. sides of Cape Redoni.

The harbour of Durazzo is very indifferent, and, properly speaking, only a roadstead. Then follow the small harbours of St. Anastasio, St. Pietro, Arzenta, Cavo de Pali, Cavo de Laki, and Bestova. They have little depth, and admit only small vessels.

The Bay of Avlona is one of the safest ports on this coast. It has three good anchorages. One is near the castle; another in the cove of D  kathes, which is also known by the name of Porto Ragusano; and the third at the most northern extremity of the island of Sassena, which lies across the entrance of the bay. The roadstead is open and exposed to northern and south-eastern winds.

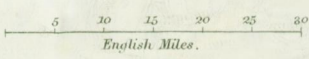
NORTHERN ALBANIA.—Between the mouth of the river Narenta (N. of 43   N. lat.) and that of the river Boyana (near 41   50' N. lat.) an extensive mountain mass comes close to the shores of the Adriatic; and the watershed of this region is so



MAP OF
ALBANIA

By
COUNT FEDOR KARACZAY
Colonel in the Austrian Service.

1842.



Explanation





MAP OF ALBANIA

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1842.

5 10 15 20 25 30
English Miles.

Explanation

- The boundary line of the } Red
Austrian Empire is coloured. }
D° of Albania Yellow
D° of Bosnia & Servia Green
D° of Herzegovina Purple
D° of the Sanjaks Blue
I. Monte-negro proper
II. The Berda's
III. The Pashalik of Skutari
IV. The Sanjak of Pristend
V. D° of Ochrida
VI. D° of Elbassan
VII. D° of Valola or Arlona
VIII. D° of Iania
A Viziership of Herzegovina
B Sanjak of Jenibazar in Bosnia
C D° of Krushevacz in Servia
D D° of Pristina in Servia
E D° of Skopia (Uskub) in Rumetia
F D° of Monastir (Bitoglia)
G D° of Delvino in Epirus



near the coast that no river above the size of a torrent falls into the sea. The mountain region, of which these masses constitute the western edge, is of considerable extent, and constitutes a detached portion of the Dinarian Alps, connected with the principal range by a chain which, between 19° and $19^{\circ} 10'$ E. long. and near $42^{\circ} 40'$ N. lat., runs to the E. Near the town of Nixitshi it is of moderate height; but farther E. it rises considerably in the vicinity of Mount Silievatz. At this point it also changes its direction, and turns towards the N., joining the principal chain of the Dinarian Alps at Mount Javor, between the sources of the rivers Narenta and Moratsha (near 43° N. lat.). The northern part of the mountain region, which is thus connected with the Dinarian Alps, like other mountain regions consisting of limestone rocks, forms in several places drainage-basins which have no outlet. Such a basin is that of Lake Krupatz, which receives by the river Matizza all the waters collected in the extensive depression in the middle of which the town of Nixitshi is built; and the still larger basin of the river Trebinistizza, which extends nearly 30 miles in length, generally parallel to the Adriatic. This part of the mountain region, however, does not belong to Albania, but lies within the Turkish province of Herzegovina.

The largest, and at the same time the most elevated, portion of the mountain region lies within Albania, and is called by the natives Zernagora (pronounced Chernagora); by the Turks, Karatagh; and the Italians, Monte Negro; all which names signify Black Mountains: and this designation is derived from the forests which formerly covered the whole of the country, and still cover a part of it. The plateau is widest at its northern border, between $42^{\circ} 30'$ and $42^{\circ} 40'$, where it extends from W. to E. upwards of 25 miles, its western edge rising immediately from the sea, whilst its eastern border is only from 1 to 3 miles distant from the western banks of the rivers Moratsha and Zenta. The range of the eastern border is nearly due N. and S., from $19^{\circ} 15'$ E. long., to where it meets the Lake of Skutari. S. of this point the mountain region is limited to the tract dividing the lake and the valley of the river Boyana from the sea; and here it is scarcely 8 miles wide. N. of the lake it is widened, in consequence of the shores of the Adriatic trending from S.E. to N.W.

The most elevated part of the Zernagora lies to the N. of the parallel of the northern extremity of the Lake of Skutari, between $42^{\circ} 10'$ and $42^{\circ} 40'$ N. lat. Its declivity towards the sea and the bays of Cattaro and Traste is steep, and in some places nearly perpendicular; and the mountain masses, at a short distance from the sea, reach a considerable elevation, upwards of 1000 feet. With the exception of their base, which is wooded in many parts,

these declivities are quite bare of vegetation, the steepness of the rocks preventing the accumulation of earthy matter. The interior of the mountain region is a table-land, elevated probably more than 2000 feet above the sea-level ; the surface of which is divided by short ridges, running in every direction, and forming a considerable number of small depressions, which take the form of valleys, but are rarely more than 3 or 4 miles long, or more than a mile wide. There are depressions in all these ridges, which afford the means of passing from one valley to another. This peculiar surface, combined with the absorbent nature of the limestone rocks, prevents the accumulation of water into rivulets and streams. Even wells are extremely rare. The inhabitants are, therefore, obliged to collect rain water in cisterns for their household use and their cattle. The woods are mostly composed of oak and beech. On the ridges they are stunted ; but in the depressions they attain a considerable size. In these forests the *Rhus cotinus*, or Venus sumach, abounds ; a shrub whose wood is used in dyeing and tanning. Large quantities of it are annually brought from the mountains to C  ttaro, whence it is exported to Trieste and Marseille. The places which are not wooded are covered with a rather thick turf, interspersed with several aromatic plants, as savory, thyme, juniper, &c.

On the table-land a few mountain masses rise considerably above the general level. Near the sea are :—Mount Vegli Verch, N. of the town of Risano, which is built at the termination of the northern branch of the Gulf of C  ttaro ; and Mount Lovtshin, or Monte Sella, at the northern base of which stands the town of C  ttaro. But the highest summits are found in the interior of the plateau : they are, taking them in succession, from N. to S., Mount Pusti Lissaz, M. Stavor, Doberstik, Zeklinsta, and Virayl. Their sides are not precipitous, but their summits are 5000 feet, or even more, above the sea-level.

Near its eastern edge the general level of the table-land becomes somewhat lower, and sinks into the low and level country which extends along the river Moratsha, by successive depressions terminating in gorges. These gorges, however, are very narrow, and easily defended against an invading enemy. A few inconsiderable streams issue from them, and fall into the river Moratsha or the Lake of Skutari. Proceeding from N. to S., the most important of these rivulets are,—the Orealuk, draining a fertile and populous valley of the same name ; the Sussitza, which rises on the eastern declivity of Mount Garatsh, one of the high summits of the Zernagora ; the Siniaz ; and the Zernoyevish.

Owing to the height of the table-land above the surface of the sea, great part of the Zernagora is an inclement country, with a long winter, and much cold weather in autumn and spring. This, to-

gether with the rocky soil and want of water, renders agriculture precarious and of limited extent. Indian corn and potatoes are grown, and several kinds of vegetables, especially cabbages. The inhabitants live principally on the produce of their flocks of sheep and goats: cattle and horses are scarce, but hogs are more numerous. As the inhabitants are excluded from the bazaars of the Turkish towns near the mountain region, they dispose of their surplus produce, their smoked mutton (called *castratina*), sheep-skins and coarse wool, cheese, tallow, bacon, bees-wax, and live stock, to the inhabitants of Cáttaro. They also carry firewood and the Venus sumach to that town, and take back a little wine and spirits, salt, oil, iron, and some manufactured articles, especially arms and gunpowder.

There are no artificial roads in the Zernagora, and the inhabitants do not make them, lest they should give facilities to invaders. The paths which connect the hamlets or small villages with each other are in general impracticable for beasts of burden. Even the line of communication along which the internal commerce of the country is carried on, which leads from Cáttaro to Zettinie, the residence of the Vladika, or spiritual governor of the republic of Montenegro, is in this condition, and the two lines which connect the valley of the river Zenta with Cáttaro. The more southern road of the two last mentioned runs along the course of the river Sussitza to a small village called Gerlishi; then passes through a narrow gorge to a funnel-shaped depression of the plateau, called Yednoss, in which is the village of Miogost; and thence westward through a chain of depressions, till it meets the northern road at Resna. The northern road leaves the valley of the river Zenta at Stubizza, and passes through Cerovo and Oranide in a southern direction to Resna. From Resna the road continues southward to Niegussi, whence it runs westward to Cáttaro. In many places these paths are so bad that the goods must be carried on the backs of men.

The portion of the mountain region of Zernagora which lies S. of a line drawn from the town of Budua, on the Adriatic, to the northern extremity of the Lake of Skutari, contains a single range of mountains, which, with its offsets, fills up the whole space between the lake and the sea. The higher part of the range may be about 3000 feet above the sea-level, and a few of its summits rise still higher, as for example, Mount Shaptina, near the point where the territories of the republic of Montenegro and the Austrian and Turkish empires meet; Mount Rumia, farther S.; and Mount Mossura, a few miles N. of Dulcigno. This range has less precipitous declivities than the hills farther N., and they are frequently broken by ravines and watercourses forming small valleys, and terminating, at least in the vicinity of the Lake

of Skutari, in level tracts of small extent. The higher portion of the range is partly wooded, especially on the side next the lake. The lower declivities, with the valleys, present considerable tracts fit for agricultural purposes. The country surrounding Mount Rumia is only fit for pasturage, and is inhabited by herdsmen possessing large flocks of sheep. In this mountain tract much corn, particularly maize, is grown. There are also large vineyards and orchards, yielding every kind of fruit of excellent quality, such as peaches and quinces. Vegetables of every kind are cultivated—potatoes, cauliflowers, cabbages, and turnips, as also melons, of which some are of excellent flavour, and the *Mammordica balsamica*, or balsam apple. This portion of the Zernagora gives rise to two small rivers, the Grabovlian and the Zernitza, which fall into the Lake of Skutari : some small streams join the river Boyana. There are no wild beasts of great size in these mountains ; but there are considerable numbers of hares, squirrels, partridges, and snipes. The turtle is found in some places.

The mountain region of the Zernagora, with the exception of the portion S. of $42^{\circ} 10'$, which forms part of the Turkish empire, and of the province of Cáttaro, on the coast of the Adriatic, which is under the dominion of Austria, is the territory of the republic of Montenegro. The inhabitants, called by the Italians Montenigrini, and in their own language Zernagorzi, submitted to the Turks, when that nation towards the middle of the fifteenth century extended their conquests to this part of the European continent. The conquerors, however, were unable to establish their military colonies in the mountain defiles, and contented themselves with imposing on the inhabitants a small tribute, and leaving them to govern themselves by their own laws.

In 1712, when the Zernagorzi took up arms in favour of Peter the Great, they defeated a numerous Turkish army near Mount Vrana, and since that time the most inaccessible part of the country, the Nahia (*canton*) Katunska, has considered itself quite independent. Since the defeat of the Turks near Mount Russovnik, in 1796, the inhabitants of the more southern districts have joined the inhabitants of the Katunska Nahia, and submitted to the sway of the Vladika. These districts now form the nahias of Rietshka, Zermnitshka, and Lieshanska ; and the united cantons constitute the republic of Montenegro. Their population amounts to about 56,000 individuals, of whom 25,000 are in the Nahia of Katunska, 12,000 in that of Rietshka, 13,000 in N. Zermnitshka, and 6000 in N. Lieshanska. Some other tribes, which are allied to the confederation, will be noticed hereafter.

At the eastern base of the Zernagora is a valley, drained by the river Zenta and by the lower course of the Moratsha. The

Zenta, or, as it is called by the natives, Zetta, rises on the southern declivity of the lower portion of the mountain range which connects the Zernagora with the Dinarian Alps. Three small rivers, descending from the mountains, unite at their base, near the village of Drenoshtiza, and form the river, which runs at first through a narrow valley nowhere a mile in width, until it reaches the village of Frutak, where the valley opens, and may be, on an average, nearly 2 miles across. Near the small Turkish fortress of Spuss the mountains again come close to the river on both banks, so as to form a gorge, in which there is scarcely room for a narrow road. After emerging from this defile the river flows in a valley about 5 miles broad, till it falls into the river Moratsha, coming from the N.E.

Though the valley of the Zenta is not wide, the declivities of the adjacent mountains, being gentle and susceptible of tillage, are cultivated in many places to a distance of nearly 3 miles on each side of the river. A good deal of maize is grown; but the flocks of sheep and goats constitute the principal riches of the inhabitants, and supply them with food and articles of barter. The mountain slopes are wooded with oak, elm, and acacias; and the *Rhus cotinus* abounds.

The valley of the Zenta is inhabited by a tribe of Albanians, called Bielopovlitsli, who were formerly subject to the Turks, but who joined the confederation of the Zernagorzi, as allies, about the beginning of the present century, and form a canton of their republic; which, however, is not called Nahia, but Berda. The population of this tract is estimated at 15,000 individuals.

Mount Silievatz is situated where the ridge which connects the Zernagora with the Dinarian Alps turns north. Its height is considerable. This ridge joins the principal range at Mount Javor. From Mount Javor the Dinarian Alps run E.S.E. to Mount Rovtzi, near 42° 50' N. lat., where they turn southward, and continue in that direction (for about 15 miles) to 42° 35', and then turn again to the E. They retain this easterly direction to Mount Troizza, a distance of about 30 miles, and then they run, for upwards of 10 miles, to the E. of N., to an elevated summit called Dobrobuk-Planina. Hence, between Mount Rovtzi and Mount Dobrobuk-Planina, the great chain forms nearly a semicircle, and does not extend, as is erroneously represented in our maps, in a straight line between these summits. The river which issues from the Lake of Plava, and is made in the maps to join the Zievna, an affluent of the Moratsha, really runs to the N., and after forcing its way through another, less elevated, mountain range, joins the Lim, an affluent of the Danube. This northern range, which from one of its elevated summits may be called the range of Mount Visitor, and which has its continuity broken by the gorge,

through which the river of Plava finds its way northward, extends nearly due W. and E., between Mount Rovtzi and Mount Dobrobuk-Planina. The country which is enclosed by the range of Mount Visitor and the principal chain of the Dinarian Alps, belongs to Albania, and is known by the name of the Plain of Plava. Its surface is rather hilly than mountainous, and it contains a considerable portion of fertile land, but the difficulty of bringing the agricultural produce to market precludes the extension of tillage beyond what is required for the consumption of the inhabitants. They export, however, the produce of their herds and flocks (hides, wool, and cheese), and a considerable quantity of wax, to the towns of Servia, especially to Sienizza and Yenibazar. This district is rather populous, containing 23 large villages, of from 30 to 100 houses, and a population which is estimated at between 6000 and 7000 individuals, and which has probably much increased since that estimate was made. The inhabitants are Catholics. They do not pay any tribute to the Turks, but are bound to maintain a certain number of sipahis.

To return to the Dinarian Alps: where this great chain, S. of Mount Rovtzi, makes a bend to the S., rises one of its most elevated and extensive mountain masses, Mount Kom, the summit of which is covered with snow during great part of the year. The base of the mountain extends 6 or 7 miles from W. to E.; it terminates in two peaks, which are steep and inaccessible, and are, according to estimate, between 8500 and 9000 feet above the sea. In the upper regions of the mountain only a few stunted trees are found; but about 4000 feet above the sea-level there are large forests of pine and fir. The pasture-grounds are indifferent, and only fit for goats. On the eastern declivity of Mount Kom is a small lake, called Rikawetz, which has no issue. At some distance to the S. is a much lower mountain, called Mount Koritts. W. of Mount Kom is a mountainous and broken country, which extends beyond the river Moratsha and joins another mountain range coming from Mount Silievatz. This range terminates in high hills, N. and E. of the Turkish fortress of Spuss: it is called the mountain of Polievizza, and is nearly 5000 feet above the level of the sea. The western declivity (towards the Zenta river) is frequently precipitous, but in some places it descends by a gentle slope. The country E. of the mountains of Polievizza, as far as Mount Kom, is a high table-land, with a very rugged surface. The river Moratsha nearly bisects it: this river has its rise on the southern declivity of the Dinarian Alps, near the elevated summits of Mount Dormitor and Mount Lukavitza, not far from the sources of the river Narenta, which falls into the Adriatic, and those of the Tara, one of the principal affluents of the river Drina, which runs to the Danube.

The high mountains which surround the upper course of the Moratsha are inhabited by a small tribe of Albanese mountaineers called Uskotzi. The valley in which the river flows is very narrow as far as Ritshani—properly speaking, it is a mere glen, and must have a great elevation above the sea-level, for the temperature is in general very low, and nothing thrives but oats and potatoes, except in a few sheltered places, where a little wheat is grown. Common fruit-trees grow, but their produce is of indifferent quality. The mountains, however, have good sheep-walks, and the inhabitants live chiefly on the produce of their flocks. The forests, which extend over a considerable portion of the district, consist chiefly of oak, ash, and elm. A clayey earth, from which the inhabitants collect small garnets, is found in the valley. Near Ritshani the Moratsha is joined from the E. by a small river called Mala-rieka, which brings down the waters collected on the western declivities of Mount Róvtzi and Mount Kom. Below the point where it receives this stream the Moratsha runs southward, gradually declining to the S.W., till it enters the Plain of Skutari, a few miles N. of Podgorizza, and is soon afterwards joined by the river Zenta. The middle valley of the Moratsha is much wider than the upper valley; the hills recede to a greater distance, especially on the E., but the level tract along the banks is very low, and in many places swampy. The soil is much more fertile, and the climate less severe. Cultivation is carried on to a greater extent, and maize yields rich crops. There are no forests, but numerous small groups of oak and elm, mixed with juniper-trees, the sorbus domestica, apple and pear trees in a wild state, and elder-trees. Vines do not thrive, nor are almond-trees or fig-trees found in the valley. Though the inhabitants of the valley derive some advantage from the trees, and still more from their cultivated fields, they rely for their principal subsistence on the produce of their herds and flocks; sheep and goats being very numerous here, as is the case all over the mountainous parts of Albania.

The valley of the Moratsha, above Podgorizza, and the mountain tract to the W. and E., are inhabited by five tribes of Albanese mountaineers: next to the sources of the river are the Uskotzi; and near them the Moratshi; somewhat lower down the Róvtzi. These three small tribes, amounting to about 10,000 souls, are united into one political body, called the Berda Moratshka and Róvtzka; they are allies of Zernagorzi, and quite independent of the Turks. They joined the confederation since the beginning of the present century. The country S. of Ritshani is divided between two other tribes of mountaineers, the Piperi and the Kutshi; the former living on the W., and the latter on the E. side of the river Moratsha. Each tribe forms a separate political

body, connected with the confederation of Montenegro; the first is called Berda Piperska, and the second Berda Kutshka. The population of the Piperi is estimated at 9000, and that of the Kutshi at 17,000 souls: the latter estimate, however, is evidently too great. The Kutshi did not join the union till 1831.

The inhabitants of the four berdas (Bielopovlitshka, Piperska, Kutshka, and Moratshka) are distinguished in the confederation of the Montenigrini by the name of Berdiani; whilst those of the Zernagora are called Zernagorzi. The whole population of these countries adheres to the tenets of the Greek church, and consequently submits without reluctance to the directions of the Vladika, or Greek bishop, residing at Zettinie, who unites the supreme political and ecclesiastical power in his person.

The river Zieвна, called by the Turks Sim-su, flows from Mount Troizza westward, along the base of the principal chain; passes the southern prolongation of the range of Mount Kom, at no great distance from Mount Kakaritska, the most southern summit of that range; enters the Plain of Skutari near Dinossi; and joins the Moratsha near Gerlic, 10 miles from that town, and about 5 miles below Podgorizza.

The valley of this river is in general narrow, but at some points it widens so as to admit of cultivation. This has enabled the Turks to form several establishments in it, of which the most important is Seliste. As the country to the W. is inhabited exclusively by independent tribes, the road traversing the valley of the river Zieвна is the most western line of communication between the Turkish provinces which are situated S. and N. of the great chain of the Dinarian Alps. This road crosses the range a few miles E. of Seliste, near Mount Musishi, and leads to Gusinie, in the Plain of Plava. To secure this pass, and protect travellers against the depredations of the predatory tribes inhabiting the neighbouring mountains, the Turks have built a fortress, called by the inhabitants of the district Castelli-novi, in which a garrison of 500 men is kept. The number of houses within and around this fortress is about 500.

Another chain of mountains, which bounds the valley of the Zieвна on the S., may be called, from the tribes which inhabit it, the mountains of the Climenti and Hotti. They are lower than the principal chain, but sufficiently high to deserve the name of mountains. Few summits rise above the level of the group; the highest is Mount Veletsiko. This chain is several miles in width, and terminates on the W., about 10 miles from the banks of the river Moratsha, S.E. of Dinossi. The Climenti and Hotti live exclusively on the produce of their sheep and goats; they pay no tribute to the Turks, but have not joined the confederation of the Zernagorzi, as they are strict adherents to the Roman Catholic

creed, and averse to submit to the orders of a Greek bishop. The Climenti, who inhabit the mountains near Mount Troizza and the mountain-pass of Castelli-novi, are said to consist at present only of about 3000 individuals: the greater part of the tribe emigrated along with the bishop of Ipek, during the last century, to Hungary, where they settled, and are still known under the name of Climentini. The Hotti, who occupy the mountains S. of Seliste, are said to be 4000 in number.

From the southern side of the mountains of the Climenti and Hotti extensive mountain masses branch off towards the S., which fill up by far the greatest part of the space intervening between that range and the valley of the Drin. These mountain masses advance so close to the banks of the river that in most places there is not level ground enough for a road, and the line of communication from Skutari to the towns of Jacova and Prisrend leads over the hills which extend along the river. The mountains which cover the greatest portion of this country are in some places of considerable height, and form large masses; but they have the appearance of being isolated, for they are connected with the range of Climenti and Hotti only by low ridges. Such isolated mountain masses are Mount Narmaya in the centre, and Mount Zukal in the western districts. The sides of these mountains are covered with timber-trees: the depressions and valleys between them are drained by three rivers, one an affluent of the Boyana, and two affluents of the Drin. They are called (from W. to E.) Drinoss or Khiri, Shalla, and Marturi. The tract of this mountain region, contiguous to the mountains of the Climenti and Hotti, contains a very small portion of land fit for agricultural purposes; and its inhabitants depend for food and clothing upon their flocks of sheep and goats. They belong to two tribes of mountaineers, called Shalla and Shossi; are Roman Catholics, and independent of the Turks. The population of each tribe is stated to amount to about 1200 individuals. The four independent tribes—the Climenti, Hotti, Shalla, and Shossi—are comprehended under the general name of Malasori (the inhabitants of the Four Mountains). They are very warlike, and extremely skilful in the use of their arms. The southern part of this region, adjoining the river Drin, contains a greater quantity of level ground between the mountain masses, and consequently agriculture is more attended to. The bulk of the population in this region is composed of Albanese, of the Roman Catholic creed. They pay an annual tribute to the Turkish government; to collect which *balimbashi*, or collectors, reside among them, who are sometimes called upon to settle disputes which their hereditary chiefs are unable to decide. In ordinary cases the chiefs pronounce judgment according to rules established by custom.

The Plain of Metoja lies E. of this region; and that of Skutari

joins it on the W. The Plain of Metoja is contiguous to the principal chain of mountains. From the summit of the Dobrobuk-Planina this chain extends S.E.—its direction being indicated by the summits called Peklin, Hajla, Glieb, and Golish—until it meets the large mountain-knot called Sharra Tagh; it extends between $42^{\circ} 10'$ and $42^{\circ} 20'$ N. lat., and between $20^{\circ} 50'$ and 21° E. long. From this mountain-knot the two great mountain ranges, called Mount Balkan and Mount Pindus, branch off to the E. and to the S.; the former terminating on the shores of the Black Sea, and the latter in the Peninsula of Morea. The range which separates the basin of the Ak-Drin from the rivers falling into the Danube is very high, rocky, and wooded, as far as Mount Glieb, but between this summit and the Sharra Tagh it sinks so low that, when seen from a distance, no mountain range appears to intervene between the Plain of Metoja and that of Kossovo Polie, of which the town of Pristina is the capital, and which is drained by the rivers Ibar and Sitnizza, affluents of the Danube. The Sharra Tagh rises to such an elevation that its summits are covered with snow nearly all the year round.

Along the base of this range runs the river Ak Drin, which rises on the declivities of Mount Dobrobuk-Planina, and Mount Baba, a mountain which rises between that summit and Mount Troizza. The upper course of the river lies among the mountains which cover the country between Mount Troizza and Mount Hajla. The valley of the river is here very narrow, but it widens considerably in the vicinity of Ipek, and from that place to the district of Prisrend the country on both sides of the river is an undulating plain several miles in breadth. This is a very fertile tract of country, abounding in many kinds of grain and fruits; but those of the southern countries of Europe and vines do not thrive, which shows that the plain of Metoja must be considerably elevated above the sea. The valleys which open into this plain are partly wooded, but large tracts in them are cleared and well cultivated, especially those on the west of the river, which are drained by the Bistrizza and Ervenik. The bulk of the population of this country consists of Albanese professing the Catholic creed; but a great number of Turks are settled among them. The Christian inhabitants are called Gheghusheni, or Ghegues. They are a very industrious people, cultivating the ground with care, and manufacturing guns of good quality.

Below the mouth of the river Topolavha the Ak Drin turns to the S.E., and descends from the plain through the Val Salki, which is narrow in the upper part, but widens as it approaches the Kara Drin into a small plain, that takes its name from the village of Brut, built nearly in the middle of it. In this plain the Ak Drin unites with the Kara (Black) Drin.

The Plain of Skutari, formerly called Zenta, is, properly speak-

ing, only the lower and wider portion of the valley of the Moratsha, or rather the continuation of that of the Zenta River. At its southern extremity is the Lake of Skutari, which extends from N.W. to S.E. upwards of 20 miles, its average width being 5 miles, though at some places it increases to nearly 7. From the north-eastern side of the lake an arm branches off, which extends about 5 miles inland, but does not much exceed 1 mile in breadth where widest. There are several islands in the lake, of which five are inhabited—SS. Nicolo de Uranina, Oscagorizza, Stavernagorizza, Morakovish, and Gorizza. The lake abounds in fish, especially salmon and the *scoranzo*. The latter is called by the natives *uklieva*; it is about the size of a herring, and enters the lake in autumn from the river Boyana: it is then found in astonishing numbers. There are places in the lake which have a smooth bottom, and present besides the appearance of springs issuing from the earth. These places, called *oko*, are visited by the scoranzi when the weather becomes cold, because the temperature of the springs is more elevated than that of the water of the lake: their number is then so great at these places, that an oar pushed into the water remains fixed. The *oko* are the property of a few individuals, chiefly Turks, and are, at the beginning of the cold season, surrounded with nets, in which an incredible quantity of fish is taken: they are dried, and form a considerable article of commerce. Trouts are plentiful, and sometimes weigh 50 or 60 lbs. The lake is also frequented by water-fowl: a kind of diver, called *smergo* in Italian, is trained to assist the fishermen in taking the scoranzi.

The Plain of Skutari extends along the eastern shores of the lake, and farther N. along the Moratsha River, as far as the confluence of the Zenta. The average width of the plain is 5 or 6 miles to the N. of the north-eastern arm of the lake: more to the S. it becomes much narrower. It is the most fertile soil in Albania; studded with villages and cultivated with great care, and interspersed with extensive tracts of forest ground and orchards. This plain produces all kinds of grain cultivated in Italy, with the exception of rice, and every kind of fruit met with in the southern countries of Europe. The meadows and pastures are excellent. The number of Turks settled in this district is much greater in proportion to its extent than in any other part of Albania. The forests, which consist of full-grown fine timber-trees, afford refuge to wild cattle, bears, wild hogs, deer of different kinds, mountain-goats (*Capra ibex*), lynxes, wild cats, and foxes; there are a very few wolves. Fish is abundant in the river Moratsha, and a Turk has established a very extensive fishery at the village of Momisichi, opposite the town of Podgorizza. The whole plain is frequently called Zenta: the portion which lies on the right side of the river

is distinguished by the name of Liesko-polie, that on the left is called Zetetzka-polie.

The valley of the Boyana may be considered as the continuation of that of the Zenta. This river is the channel by which the Lake of Skutari discharges its waters into the Adriatic. Issuing from the lake at its south-eastern extremity, it flows southward, and after a course of about 20 miles enters the sea, forming at its mouth, where it is 400 fathoms broad, a harbour for small vessels. The Boyana is navigable for boats from the sea to the town of Skutari, and coasting-vessels of moderate size can ascend it as far up as the village of Hobotti, about 15 miles from its mouth, where there are some warehouses and a custom-house. The valley through which the river runs is hardly inferior in fertility and cultivation to the Zenta, but it is much narrower, being little more than 2 miles across, except towards the embouchure of the river, where it widens to double that extent. The banks of the Boyana are marshy, and at two places it enlarges so as to form a small lake.

CENTRAL ALBANIA.—The central part of Albania, or that which lies S. of the river Drin, and extends to the ridge terminating at Cape Redoni, is not less mountainous than the northern portion hitherto described, but differs from it in this respect, that the most mountainous parts are found in the interior, whilst the more level districts extend along the shores of the Adriatic. The great chain, which stretches southward from the mountain-knot of Sharra Tagh, has no general name in the country, the designations Mount Vetzi, Magnani, Petrin, Spiridion, and others applying only to single summits, or at the most to some small portion of the range. The ancient name of Pindus is therefore retained to designate the whole range. The information contained in the Count's manuscript respecting this range is very scanty, on account, as he observes, of its being rarely traversed by any travellers except Turks; but the mountains are said to attain such an elevation in many places as to be covered with snow for the greater part of the year. Another chain, scarcely less elevated, runs parallel to the principal range, with which it is connected by a transverse ridge, which bounds the Lake of Ochrida on the S. and E. This lake is nearly 20 miles long, and on an average about 4 miles wide. The mountains surrounding it on all sides slope down to its shores with a gentle declivity, so as to admit of cultivation. The country being sheltered on all sides from the winds, its climate is rather more temperate than that which prevails in other parts of Albania, and vines, and even the more delicate fruit-trees of southern Europe, thrive tolerably well, though it is certain that its elevation above the sea must be considerable, as the current of the river Drin is rather rapid throughout its course, which

probably exceeds 200 miles. The Black Drin, or Kara Drin-su issues from the northern extremity of the Lake of Ochrida, and runs northward for nearly 70 miles ($41^{\circ} 10'$ to $42^{\circ} 10'$). In the Plain of Brut it is met by the Ak Drin-su, or White Drin: at the place of confluence the united waters turn to the W. The Drin flows more than 80 miles in this direction, forming, however, a large semicircular bend towards the N. About 20 miles from its mouth it declines gradually to the S., and reaches the sea below Alessio. The distances are here given in straight lines. If the smaller bends of the river are included, its course probably exceeds 200 miles. The Drin attains its maximum breadth of 400 fathoms near Alessio; at its mouth it is only 160 fathoms broad.

The valley of the Kara Drin is confined: on each side the offsets of the mountain masses advance to a short distance from the banks of the river, and leave but narrow level tracts along the river; these only are fit for tillage, for the declivities of the mountains are in general too steep to be cultivated: they are, however, well wooded, and afford good pasture-grounds. The inhabitants of this valley are for the most part Albanese of the Catholic church, called Ghegues, and subject to the Turks.

The chain of mountains W. of the valley of the Kara Drin occupies a base 10 or 12 miles, or even more, in width, and several of its summits are covered with snow for six or eight months. The most elevated of these summits (from S. to N.) are Mount Spileon, Mount Konaj, Mount Shintit, and Mount Moniglia. Two pretty lofty ridges branch off from the western side of this range, and extend to the vicinity of the Adriatic, where they terminate in hills, sometimes close to the shore, sometimes at such a distance from the coast as to leave a level tract along the sea. The most northern of these lateral chains, which branches off near Mount Moniglia, is called by some the Kerubi Mountains: it extends along the southern banks of the Drin, where this river runs from E. to W., and its declivities advance so close to the banks of the river, that there is not sufficient space left for a road; the path therefore passes over the ridge itself, near two elevated summits, called Purk and Tomjon, which rise upwards of 200 feet above the sea-level. This ridge terminates on the banks of the Drin; but considerable mountain masses advance to the S., from where it terminates, as far as the Fandi, an affluent of the Matt River. Mount Kreska, Mount Lais, Mount Veglia, and some other summits of these masses attain a considerable elevation. The high hills terminate at a distance of several miles from the sea.

The southern lateral chain leaves the western parallel range at Mount Spileon, and runs nearly W. as far as the meridian of

Croya, and so far it is sufficiently elevated to deserve the name of a mountain-ridge. Farther W. it declines to the N., and sinks down to hills, which extend close to the shore of the Adriatic, terminating in Cape Redoni. These hills are well wooded, and afford good pastures, but the higher portion of the ridge is stony and barren.

The two ridges of mountains just mentioned are, where they branch off from their principal range, more than 30 miles distant from each other, but at their termination the space between them is scarcely 10 miles wide. The country which they enclose is traversed by ridges of less extent and elevation, which follow the same direction, but sink down to hills at a distance of about 10 miles from the sea, and leave a level plain between it and their extremities, which may be on an average 5 miles wide. These secondary ridges contain valleys of moderate width, which are drained by five rivers, four of which unite into one before they reach the sea, and enter it under the name of the Matt River; its mouth is nearly at an equal distance from the embouchure of the river Drin and from Cape Redoni. The confluents which form this river are (from N. to S.) Great Fandi, Little Fandi, Oracha, and Matt. The fifth river, called Hismo, or Ismo, falls into the bay immediately N. of Cape Redoni.

The valleys drained by these rivers are very narrow towards their sources, but expand as they approach the W. The upper valleys have a cold climate; the inhabitants cultivate a little grain and some vegetables, but depend chiefly on their cattle, sheep, and goats for subsistence. Lower down maize is rather extensively grown, and at several places there are vineyards; orchards are frequent; peaches and quinces are abundant and of good quality. But even here the inhabitants rely for their food, in a great measure, on their flocks of sheep and goats: they have, however, also cattle, horses, and mules. Game too is abundant; a part of the adjacent ridges being clothed with wood.

These valleys are inhabited by two tribes of Albanese, the Miriditi and the Madiani: the former are Catholic Christians, and the latter Mohammedans. The Miriditi inhabit the valleys of the two rivers called Fandi, and form a population exceeding 18,000. They acknowledge the padishah as their sovereign, but are governed by their native princes, the Prenk-Lesci, who assert that they are the descendants of the famous Scanderbégh. These princes reside at Orossi, a small place, inhabited by about 700 persons: they visit annually the principal villages subject to their sway, where they hold courts of justice and decide all kinds of disputes, but do not inflict the punishment of death. The tribute which they pay to the Sultan does not exceed 15 paras for every inhabited house.

The Madiani inhabit the country on both sides of the river Matt and the adjacent mountains and hills. Very little is known of them; their number is said not to exceed 6000. They do not suffer Christians to settle among them, and if a Christian has some business to transact in their country, he must be accompanied by one of the Madiani. They are in a state of permanent insurrection. The Miriditi and Madiani are not immediate neighbours; there is between them, on the banks of the river Oracha, a population of Catholic Christians in a district called Ksella, consisting of about 2000 individuals.

SOUTHERN ALBANIA.—The part of Albania between Cape Redoni and Cape Linguetta is not less mountainous in the interior than the central and northern portions, but has a large plain on the shores of the Adriatic, which extends along the coast from the mouth of the river Uskomobin to the neighbourhood of Avlona, and nearly 10 miles inland. The most extensive of the mountain-ranges by which this district is traversed is called Kandavi: it branches off from the Pindus range near $40^{\circ} 30'$ N. lat., and runs in a north-western direction between the upper course of the rivers Uskomobin and Chervesta, but turns more to the W. after passing N. of 41° N. lat. Mount Tomoros, which separates the basin of the river Chervesta from that of the Voyussa, and which runs due W., is only a branch of Mount Kandavi, and diverges from it near the place where that range quits the Pindus Mountains. Mount Tomoros, however, forms large and elevated masses, which descend with great steepness on the Voyussa, between the towns of Klissura and of Depedelen. The most southern range of mountains in Albania is that which terminates at Cape Linguetta, and is known by the name of Khimera: it is connected with the Pindus Mountains near 40° N. lat., and is of great width, covering an extensive country between $39^{\circ} 50'$ and $40^{\circ} 20'$ N. lat. It rises to a great elevation, and was known to the ancients under the name of Acroceraunian Mountains.

The most remarkable rivers in this part of Albania are the Uskomobin, or Scombi, the Chervesta, and the Voyussa. The Uskomobin rises in the Pindus Mountains, and E. of the Lake of Ochrida, in an alpine lake, and encircles nearly by its curved course the lake on the S. and W. In the parallel of the northern extremity of the lake it turns to run W.: it falls into the Adriatic a few miles below Peklin. The Chervesta River rises in the country where Mount Tomoros branches off from the Kandavi Mountains, and flowing nearly due W., passes near the town of Arnaud Berat, and enters the sea not far from the Lake of Trebuki. The Turks call this river Semene. The Voyussa originates on the western declivity of Mount Mezzovo in the Pindus range, and flows for

more than half its course through a narrow valley, but after passing Depedelen it runs with a rather gentle current through a lower country, and near the sea through a plain. In summer this river is frequently without water. The Turks call it Vussa.

The southern portion of Albania is inhabited by Mohammedans or by Christians of the Greek creed: there are no Roman Catholics. To this circumstance must be ascribed the want of more detailed information in Count Karaczay's manuscript; as that which he has collected on the northern and central districts of Albania was derived, in a great measure, from the accounts of the resident Catholic clergy. The scanty information which he obtained from travellers is embodied in his account of the political divisions of the country, and in that of the principal roads which traverse it.

TURKISH POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF ALBANIA.—The political division of the Turkish provinces is subjected to greater and more frequent changes than that of other countries. Before the rebellion of Ali Pasha of Janina, the southern districts of Albania were united to the vizirat of Epirus, or Toskria, and the remainder formed the vizirat or ejalet of Skutari. After some minor changes, this vizirat was in 1837 abolished, and the country placed immediately under the vizir of Rum-ili; but in 1838 it was re-established, though some portions were dismembered from it. The subdivisions into pashaliks, or sanjaks, and into kadiliks, are less subject to change; and of these divisions Count Karaczay has given an account.

I. The sanjak or pashalik of Skutari extends over the northern parts of Albania, and advances southward to the vicinity of Cape Redoni, but it does not reach inland to the great chain of the Dinarian Alps and Mount Sharra Tagh. This sanjak is divided into six kadiliks:—

1. The kadilik of Kara-tagh comprehends the countries which constitute at present the republic of Montenegro. The Turkish government has never acknowledged the independence of this country, but looks on it as a province in a state of rebellion, and considers it as still forming a part of the sanjak of Skutari.

2. The kadilik of Antivari extends over the greater part of the isthmus between the Adriatic and the Lake of Skutari, and is on the N. contiguous to the Austrian province of C  taro and the territories of Montenegro. The population is estimated at 10,000 souls. It has extensive plantations of olive-trees, and the quantity of oil which is annually exported amounts to 5000 barrels. Turks live only in the town; the inhabitants of the country are Christians of the Greek and Roman Catholic creeds. The town of Antivari is built on a rocky hill, surrounded by steep moun-

tains, about 2 miles from the sea. It has a castle, in which are 400 houses; the town itself contains 540 houses, and a suburb 160. The whole population is said not to exceed 2500 individuals; but this is probably an under-estimate: it furnishes 600 soldiers in time of war. The base of the hill on which the town is built is washed by a small river, called Richanatz, by which it communicates with the sea. At the mouth of this river is a little bay, in which there is anchorage for small vessels. There are 100 shops in the bazar. The inhabitants are partly Turks and partly Christians. The southern commune of this kadilik is called Markovichi; it consists of a number of villages in a very mountainous tract, called Lissigna, notorious for the great number of poisonous plants which it produces.

3. The kadilik Dulcigno is to the south of Antivari, and extends from the Adriatic to the river Boyana. It is said to contain a population of about 20,000, by far the greater part of whom are Christians. Turks are found only in the town of Dulcigno, where they constitute about one-half of the population. This district produces much oil; about 7000 barrels are annually exported. It has also extensive vineyards, yielding annually more than 1000 casks of wine. Enough of salt is manufactured for the consumption of the inhabitants. The town of Dulcigno is built on an isolated hill forming a cape, which is united to the mainland by a low isthmus. The surrounding country is a plain interspersed with low hills, and very fertile. Dulcigno is the seat of a Catholic bishop, and contains about 1000 houses and from 7000 to 8000 inhabitants, who live mostly on the produce of their estates, except a few families engaged in commerce, or in the fisheries of the river Boyana. They send 2500 soldiers to the army.

4. The kadilik of Skutari comprehends the districts adjoining the Lake of Skutari on the E., S., and W., and the tract of country lying between the rivers Boyana and Drin. The level country E. of the lake was formerly known by the name of the Lower Zenta, and the hilly tract between its western shores and Mount Rumia is called Kraina. The population of this district exceeds 100,000; of whom about one-half are Roman Catholics, and the remainder Mohammedans and Christians of the Greek church. It is a rich country: the mountainous parts are covered with forests containing excellent timber-trees, and the lake and rivers yield large quantities of fish. The merchants of Skutari are rich, and the principal traders in this part of Turkey: they export the produce of the country, consisting chiefly of wool, bees'-wax, hides, hare-skins, tobacco, and dried fish, which they send to Trieste, Venice, and Avlona, and import in return coffee and other colonial produce, silk, and several manufactured articles, especially silk stuffs, cloth, brocades of gold, &c. They carry the imported goods to

the great fairs, which are held annually in the towns of Perlepje in Rum-ili, of Pristina in Servia, and of Elbassan in Albania. The town of Skutari contains upwards of 40,000 inhabitants: it is built not far from the lake, between the rivers Boyana and Drinoss, or Khiri, and consists of three parts—the castle, Tabaki, and Tersia. The castle stands on a high hill, and commands the town and the bazar, a large square building of stone to the E. In the castle is the palace (serai) of the governor, the barracks, an arsenal, and several magazines. The houses of the town, more than 4000 in number, are mostly enclosed by walls, which causes it to occupy a large space of ground compared with its population. In the middle of the streets are watercourses, most of which have sufficient fall to turn mills. The part of the town which is called Tabaki is built on the southern declivity of the hill on which the castle stands, and is only inhabited by Turks. Tersia, inhabited by Christians, is on the E. side of the hill, and is more than 2 miles long and a mile wide; but there are gardens among the houses. The bazar contains 4000 well-arranged shops. There are several mosques in Skutari, one of which, called Aia Sofia, was formerly a Christian church; there are also several Christian churches and convents. About one-half of the population are Roman Catholics: there are a few families of Greek Christians. The Roman Catholics have a bishop here. There are three bridges near the town, two across the Drinoss (one of stone and one of wood), and one (of wood) across the Boyana, below its confluence with the Drinoss. At Hobotti, the highest point to which sea-vessels ascend the Boyana, are the custom-house and extensive warehouses. A great fair is annually held here. About 4 miles N.E. of Skutari, and near the banks of the Drinoss, is the old town of Drivast, or, as the Turks call it, Drisht, built on the declivity of a rock. It has a castle and about 1000 inhabitants; all Turks, except one family.

5. The kadilik of Podgorizza extends, according to the Turks, over the most northern portion of Albania E. of the valleys of the Zenta and Moratsha, including the countries which contain the Berdas, or allies of the republic of Montenegro. In this kadilik are also the countries of the Climenti, Hotti, Shalla, and Shossi, equally independent tribes, although not allied to the Zernagorzi. The other tribes inhabiting the mountain-regions pay a fixed tribute, and a few Turks are settled among them to collect it. It is only in the level part of the kadilik, which extends along both banks of the Zenta and Moratsha, that any considerable portion of the population consists of Mohammedans. The number of inhabitants of this kadilik does not, in all probability, fall short of 100,000 individuals. The town of Podgorizza is built on the left bank of the Moratsha, at its confluence with the small river

Chicuna, over which there is a long bridge of wood. It contains 6000 inhabitants, four-fifths of whom are Mohammedans, and sends 2000 men to the army, one half of whom serve on horseback. A few miles N. of the town, near the village of Slatizza, at the base of a mountain are the ruins of the old town of Dioclea, now called Dickla, which appears to have had a circumference of about 6 miles. The ruins consist of temples, palaces, and single columns, and an aqueduct of about 12 miles long: Roman coins are frequently found among them; but these ruins diminish rapidly, as the Turks of Podgorizza employ the materials in building their houses. Some miles farther N., near the village of Stiena, are other ruins, called by the inhabitants Gradina di S. Simone. Their origin is not known. Zabliak, or Zsabliak, is a town and fortress built at the influx of the river Moratsha into the Lake of Skutari. The fortress is small, and only inhabited by Turks. The town contains about 250 houses and 100 inhabitants: it supplies 300 men to the army. Spush, or Ispush, is a town and fortress built near the gorge by which the river Zenta leaves the country of the Bielopavlitshi: it contains 2000 inhabitants, three-fifths of whom are Turks. The road from Albania to the Herzegovina leads through the valley of the upper Zenta; but the Turks are excluded from the use of this road by the Bielopavlitshi. East of Podgorizza is the small town of Medun, built near the mountains inhabited by the Kutshi, on the declivity of a beautiful hill in a very fertile tract: it is peopled by Mohammedans, who are famous for their valour, and governed by their own aga, and who supply 200 men to the army. The hilly country surrounding the Lake of Plava, though situated on the northern side of the principal range of the Dinarian Alps, constitutes a part of the kadilik of Podgorizza. In this district are the small towns of Plava and Gusinie.

6. The kadilik of Alessio comprehends the southern parts of the pashalik of Skutari, including the mountain districts inhabited by the Miriditi and Madiani. Alessio, called Lesh by the Turks, is built on the left banks of the Drin, not far from its mouth: near the river is the bazar, and at a short distance the fortress and town. The fortress is small and in bad condition, and contains only the barracks and a few Christian families; but on the other side of the fortress is an extensive suburb, called Varoshi, which is inhabited only by Turks, and is a thriving place. In the fortress is a mosque, which was formerly a Christian church, called S. Nicolo di Bari. In this church the famous George Castriota, better known by the name of Scanderbegh, is buried. Varoshi has more than 1000 inhabitants. The country about this place has very extensive plantations of olive-trees, but a portion of it S.E. of the town is covered with swamps. Several large villages

are found in this plain. Orossi, the residence of the Prenk-Lesci, or hereditary princes of the Miriditi, a small place, is built at the base of Mount Shintit.

II. The sanjak or pashalik of Dúkajin extends over the north-eastern portion of Albania, including the larger part of the Plain of Metoja. This country is also called Dúkaina, and is, for the most part, well inhabited, the population being stated at nearly 210,000 individuals: it is divided into three kadiliks:—

1. The kadilik of Dúkajin, comprehending the south-western part of the pashalik, is mountainous, and contains only the small and decayed town of Dúkajin, situated between mountains on the left of the road leading from Skutari to Prisrend. It was formerly the seat of the pasha, and therefore the pashalik bears its name.

2. The kadilik of Petsh, or Ipek, as the Turks call it, comprehends the upper basin of the Ak Drin and a part of the Plain of Metoja. Petsh, or Ipek, the present seat of the pasha, is built on the banks of the river Bistrizza, at a considerable distance from the place where this river falls into the Ak Drin. It lies in a valley which resembles that of Innspruck in Tyrol. On the N. a high summit of the great mountain-chain is visible: it is called Koprivnik, and is always covered with snow. The town is divided into two parts by the river. They are called Jarin and Csenevia, and are united by a high bridge which rests on five arches. The Bistrizza divides into many channels, and its rapid current turns a number of mills. In the bazar are 960 shops. The population is stated to exceed 12,000 individuals, among whom are a few Christians of the Greek persuasion, and one or two Catholics. The Turks have 16 mosques. Arms are made in this town in great number and of good quality. A kind of apple, called the velvet apple, is grown in the neighbourhood: it has a very delicate flavour, and considerable quantities are sent to Constantinople.

3. The kadilik of Jacova comprehends the central portion of the Plain of Metoja and the adjacent districts. The town of Jacova is a large place, containing 2000 houses and 18,000 inhabitants. The river Ervenik runs through it from west to east, and divides it into two parts, of which the northern is the larger. The number of Christians, both of the Roman Catholic and Greek religion, is but small. The Turks have eleven mosques. There are 1100 shops in the bazar.

III. The sanjak or pashalik of Prisrend contains only a small portion of the Plain of Metoja, but includes a large mountain tract contiguous to the western side of the mountain-knot of the Sharra Dagħ. This tract is thinly peopled. The whole population of the sanjak is said not to exceed 80,000 individuals, of whom only 17,000 are Mohammedans. The capital is Prisrend,

or Perserim, called by the Turks also Prisdren, a town of from 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants, partly Turks and partly Christians of both persuasions. It is built on the river Rieka, about 4 or 5 miles from its confluence with the Drin, which takes place at the village of Stan. The Turkish governor resides in a castle on the adjacent hill. There are considerable manufactories of fire-arms in Prisdren, the guns and pistols made here being much valued. The town also carries on a considerable traffic with the adjacent country, and has commercial relations with many of the large towns in Albania, Rum-Ili, and Servia, on account of the great fair which is held there every year in the month of November.

IV. The sanjak or pashalik of Elbassan extends along the shore of the Adriatic from Cape Redoni, which divides it from the pashalik of Ochrida, to the river Uskomobin, which separates it from the pashalik of Avlona. It extends eastward to the range of the Kandavi mountains. The greatest part of this province is hilly; mountains, properly speaking, occur only in the eastern districts. The most remarkable places are:—

Elbassan, or Ilbassan, a town with a strong castle, in which the pasha resides, is built on the banks of the river Uskomobin, or Scombi, in a very fertile plain, and has 5000 inhabitants, of which number 3500 are Mohammedans, 1000 of the Greek church, and 500 Catholics. Its commerce is supported by an annual fair.

Dúrazzo, called by the Albanese Durtz, by the Turks Dratsh or Drutsh, the ancient Dyrachium, stands on the shores of a bay which is formed by the capes Pali and Laki, and contains between 9000 and 10,000 inhabitants. The harbour, or rather roadstead, is shallow, and vessels of moderate size must anchor at a distance of more than a mile from the shore. Near the town are extensive warehouses.

Pekin, or Peklin, is a small town with 700 inhabitants, built on the banks of the Uskomobin river.

Kavaya is rather a large place, and situated on the banks of a small river which bears the same name, and falls into the Adriatic about 3 miles below the town. It is almost equi-distant from Dúrazzo and Peklin, and contains from 9000 to 10,000 inhabitants, among whom are only about 100 Catholics and from 500 to 600 Christians of the Greek creed. It derives its importance from the fertile plain which surrounds it, and in which a cheese is made which is much valued and exported to remote parts of the Turkish empire.

Tirana, or Terana, is a town enclosed by walls, and built on the river Jacon, which has a very rapid current, but in summer is frequently without water. The plain in the neighbourhood of the town is very fertile, and produces large quantities of grain of

different kinds; there are also extensive vineyards and plantations of olive-trees. Nearly 10,000 persons live in the town; about 1000 are Greek Christians, 150 Roman Catholics, and the remainder Turks.

V. The sanjak or pashalik of Ochrida extends over the whole breadth of Albania from the Adriatic to the range of the Pindus mountains; but on the shore it is narrow, comprehending only the basin of the small river Hismo or Ismo, whilst along the great mountain-range it extends more than 70 miles from north to south. The larger portion of the valley of the Kara-Drin is within this pashalik. Though the eastern portion is very mountainous, it includes a great number of fertile valleys, in which much grain, wine, tobacco, and even cotton is grown; much honey and wax is also collected, and great numbers of cattle are kept. The most remarkable places are:—

Ochrida, an ancient town on the northern banks of the Lake of Ochrida, and on the great Roman military road which led from Pella in Macedonia, through Tesnia and Bitoglia (Toli Monastir) to Dürazzo; and which, though much neglected, is still used as the common road for troops sent from Constantinople to Albania. It is also the most frequented road for the commercial intercourse between Rum-ili and Albania. The town, whose population is said not to exceed 1000 individuals, consists of scattered houses built round a hill, on the summit of which is a small fortress, the residence of the pasha. The population is chiefly composed of Greek Christians, mingled with whom are a few Turks, Bulgarians, and Jews. There are mines of silver and sulphur in the neighbouring mountains, but they are not worked.

In the valley of the Kara-Drin are two places called Dibre, distinguished by the epithets of Great and Little. Great Dibre contains a population of 2000 families, and is the residence of a mirimazim, who lives in a palace enclosed by high walls. Near this place are some baths containing sulphur and saltpetre, which are much used for several diseases. Little Dibre is inhabited by 700 families. A small portion of the inhabitants of the Kara-Drin are Christians of the Greek Church.

Croya, or Kroya, also called Ak-Hissar, is an old town, and famous for having been the residence of Scanderbegh, who was born here. It is built on the banks of the river Ismo, about 12 miles from its mouth, on a high hill, which affords an extensive view over the level country surrounding the town on three sides. Its population is said to exceed 15,000, partly Christians and partly Turks. The great plain which extends round the town is called Mavra, and is very fertile. On the south of the town is a ridge of beautiful hills, which extend to Cape Redoni. In this place are considerable manufactures of arms.

VI. The sanjak or pashalik of Avlona, or Valona, extends over the most southern part of Albania, from the banks of the river Uskomobin on the north, to the range of the Khimera mountains on the south. Its eastern districts are mostly covered with extensive mountain masses, between which, however, there are many fertile, though in general narrow valleys; in the western districts are some plains of considerable extent. In general it is a fertile and populous country. It contains large pine-forests, yielding excellent timber. It produces every kind of grain in abundance, as also olive-oil, cotton, wine, tobacco, and bees'-wax. In many places salt is prepared from sea-water. There are wells of earth-oil in several places, which is collected, and affords an article of export. Valonia acorns are collected in considerable quantities. The most remarkable places are :—

Berat, called also Arnaut Berat, the seat of the pasha, is built on the banks of the river Chervesta, which is also called Arzerta below the town. Berat stands in a valley distinguished by fertility, and producing large quantities of grain, oil, and wine. The population is stated to be between 8000 and 10,000 individuals, of whom two-thirds are Greeks, and one-third are Turks. The Turks live in the new town, which is built above the old. The latter is fortified, but has no drinkable water.

Avlona, or Valona, situated a quarter of a mile from the shores of the bay which bears the same name, is built on a hill, which is surrounded by a wall. South of the town is a small fortress, called Canina, which stands on a steep rock. If the suburbs are included, the town may have a population of between 8000 and 10,000 inhabitants, Turks and Christians. The Christians are principally engaged in commercial pursuits, and the Turks manufacture different kinds of woollen stuffs and arms. The bay forms a sheltered harbour, but the anchorage is rocky and bad. The best is found at the custom-house near the town, and in the most southern recess of the bay, called Porto Ragusano, near a place called Dúkathes. There is a considerable number of Jews in Avlona. Much salt and earth-oil is exported, with olive-oil and valonia.

Mesakia is a small place, near the mouth of the river Voyussa, where vessels frequently stop to take in water, which is of excellent quality.

Dépedelen, a market-town on the river Voyussa, where it is joined by the river Ergir or Argiro, which descends from the Khimera mountains. At this place Ali Pasha of Janina was born.

Argiro, or Ergir Kastro, called by the Turks Erghile, is situated on the banks of the Ergir river; the site of the town is broken by many deep ravines; the different quarters are con-

nected by stone bridges. Above the town is a well-fortified castle, and most of the houses are surrounded by walls, which have loop-holes. This place defends one of the most important mountain-passes (Derbend) in this part of Albania. The population is said to consist only of 4000 individuals, having been much reduced by the plague in 1814.

Klissura is a small town built at the base of a very steep and high mountain, in the valley of the river Voyussa, and on the principal road leading from Albania to Epirus and Greece. Above the town is a fortified castle. The population does not exceed 1500.

Pirimiti is a market-town on the Voyussa, where the river runs in a very narrow valley, and with great rapidity. The great road leading to Epirus passes over a bridge at this place, which is inhabited by 100 families, two-thirds of whom are Turks. It carries on some traffic, as the plain opposite the town and the mountainous country surrounding it are rather populous, containing 120 villages. There are many gipsies settled in this town.

Zagora is a market-town, mostly inhabited by Greeks, among the mountains which separate Albania from Epirus, in a populous and well-cultivated district.

ROADS.—In a mountainous country, large tracts of which are nearly uninhabited, the roads must, of course, be in a bad state, compared with those of more fortunate countries. None of the roads in Albania are practicable for wheeled vehicles, but most of them are for beasts of burden; which are therefore exclusively used for conveying articles of traffic from one place to another. It cannot be said that they are quite neglected, for they are in general sufficiently wide, and bridges are built over the rivers where required. Where the roads pass through swampy tracts they are paved. On the most frequented roads, if they pass through a thinly-peopled district, caravansarai, or *khans*, as the Turks call them, have been built for the accommodation of travellers. Some care has also been taken to avoid steep hills. In the dry months an army not encumbered with heavy artillery could pass along these roads. The most important lines of commercial intercourse between Albania and the adjoining Turkish provinces (Herzegovina, Servia, Rum-ili, and Epirus) are as follows:—

1. The road leading from Skutari to Nixitshi in Herzegovina runs along the eastern banks of the Lake of Skutari, through several large villages to the town of Zsabliak, and thence along the banks of Moratsha to Podgorizza and Ispush; then, traversing the gorge by which the Zenta enters the plain, it leads through the upper valley of that river by the villages of Frutak and Povia.

North of the last-mentioned place it crosses the low range which separates Albania from the Herzegovina, which in this place is called Planinizza. Descending from this range to the Plain of Nixitshi, called Slivie Pianura, it passes near the place where the small rivers which drain this part of the plain are lost in an opening at the base of the range. From Nixitshi roads branch off in different directions, to Jezero and Piva in Bosnia by Drobnjak, to Gasco by Sipatshno, and to Grohovo and Klobuk by Trubiela and Omtish.

2. From Podgorizza a road leads to Ipek. It passes along the valley of the Zievena through Seliste; crosses the Dinarian Alps between Castelli Novi and Gusinie, and after leaving Plava, again crosses the great range near the Mount Baba, into the upper valley of the Ak-Drin, along which it continues to Ipek. This was the road taken by the ambassadors of Venice when they were sent to Constantinople.

3. The road from Ipek to Yenibazar in Servia passes through Istok, and crosses the Dinarian Alps not far from Mount Dobrobuk-Planina. Yenibazar, or New Bazar, is a large commercial town with 20,000 inhabitants, mostly Turks and Jews. It is the seat of a pasha.

4. The towns of Ipek, Jacova, and Prisrend are connected by a road which runs through the Plain of Metoja. Two tolerable roads lead from Jacova and Prisrend across the plains of Metoja and Kossovo Polie, and the range of mountains which separates them, to Pristina in Servia, a large commercial place, whence a road practicable for carriages leads to Uskop or Skopia in Rumili, passing through the famous mountain-pass called Katshanik, on the banks of the river Vardar.

5. A more direct line of communication between Prisrend and Uskop crosses the great mountain-range S. of the mountain-knot of the Sharra mountains, and passes through the town of Kalkan-delen. Uskop is a large place with 26,000 inhabitants, for the most part engaged in commerce and manufactures. There are about 2000 Greeks and 4000 Roman Catholics. Several roads meet at this town. In addition to those which connect it with Pristina and Prisrend, one runs eastwards to Filipopoli, passing through the towns of Kumanova and Kosterdil, and another southward to Salonichi and Seres, passing through Köprili.

6. The road which connects Skutari with Prisrend crosses a hilly country S.E. of Skutari to Mied on the Drin river, and afterwards leads eastward over the broken mountains of the Kerubi range, as the valley of the Drin is so narrow in these parts that the road cannot pass along its banks. At the village of Sposs, where a well-built khan is found, the road crosses the river, and then continues along its banks to Prisrend.

7. The road from Antivari to Skutari runs partly through a mountainous country and partly along the banks of the river Boyana. Departing from Antivari, it passes through a narrow valley between high hills, covered with plantations of olive-trees, until the crest of the mountains is attained by a ravine. The ravine leads to a level tract, overgrown with timber-trees: timber is conveyed from this place to the river Boyana. On this part of the road only a few isolated dwellings are met with. The descent to the river Boyana is gradual, and the valley is intersected by low hills. The rocks and stones disappear, and the soil is soft and rich; the road is consequently bad after rain. In the valley of the Boyana it has the banks of the river on one hand, and a rocky ridge of low hills on the other. The river is passed by a bridge at a short distance from Skutari. The road from Dulcigno to Skutari crosses some hilly grounds near the former; it is paved there, and is about 6 feet wide. It joins the road from Antivari to Skutari on the right bank of the river Boyana.

8. The road from Skutari to Alessio on leaving the town of Tabaki passes along the stone bridge over the river Drinoss, which annually inundates the adjacent country, and renders it fertile. The road then turns southward, and traverses the district between the rivers Boyana and Drin. This tract has an undulating surface, and is, properly speaking, an extensive depression between the western extremity of the Kerubi mountains and an isolated but small system of hills which extends along the shore between the mouths of these two rivers. The undulating coast has a rich loamy soil, and is well cultivated; many villages are built on it, as Berlizze, Bushiatti, and Burbulushi, through which the road passes. The last-mentioned village is built on the Drin, which is passed on a ferry at the village of Gramsi. At this place the valley of the Drin begins to narrow, as the hills to the W. of it advance close to the banks of the river. In this part of the valley the soil is less fertile, and the road consequently better, except at some places, which have been paved at some remote period, but are now quite neglected.

9. The road from Alessio to Berat on the Chervesta leads through the countries contiguous to the Adriatic, and is rarely anywhere more than 5 or 6 miles distant from its shores. On leaving the town of Alessio the road runs through a low wood, consisting of wild vines, brambles, and thorn-bushes, which are so entangled that it is impossible to enter them, the more so as the ground on which they grow is an extensive swamp, and lower than the road, which is of convenient width, and paved. This swampy wood extends southward to the banks of the river Matt, but on approaching its banks the ground is higher, and at

some places less impeded by bushes and trees, so as to afford pasture-ground for cattle. On the banks of the river is a khan. South of the river and along the shores of the sea is a wood of full-grown forest-trees. The river Hismo is passed at Ismid khan by a small wooden bridge. South of that river the ground rises, and the road passes near a small fortress, called Fort Skanderbegh, to the village of Lalikh, on the ridge of hills which terminates at Cape Redoni. The hills are mostly covered with wood, except at a few places, where pasture-grounds are found; but there are no signs of cultivation in this hilly tract, whose surface is much broken by ravines. On the southern declivity of this ridge is a fine glen, overgrown with high trees, through which the road leads to a rather level tract, which is used as pasture for cattle, and extends to the banks of the small river Shiakon. The plain continues to some distance, and is then interrupted by some low hills overgrown with trees; but beyond them it continues to the town of Kavaya.

South of Kavaya are some eminences consisting of gravel and pebbles, along the slope of which the road leads till it descends into the level plain on the banks of the river Uskomobin. The soil of the plain is a very soft earth; it is fertile, but the road is hardly passable, except in the dry summer months. The river where crossed by a ferry is about 40 fathoms broad. The plain continues S. of the Uskomobin, and is only interrupted by a few hills of gentle ascent, beyond which the surface is again level, partly cultivated and partly used as pasture-ground. West of this portion of the plain lies the lake of Trébuki (Tre bocche), which is parallel to the Adriatic, and about 8 miles long. The country E. of the lake is flat, and its shores are overgrown with canes and rushes; but between the lake and the sea is a ridge of some height. Near the village of Lusenia, which is built on a hill, is the boundary between the pashaliks of Elbassan and Avlona. After leaving Lusenia the country extends again into a level plain, which continues to the Chervesta river, and in some parts is overgrown with canes and rushes, and in others is used as pasture-ground for large herds of cattle. In this plain is the large village of Karbonater, called by the Turks Karabunar. In approaching the river Chervesta the road passes the base of a range of hills. At Berat the river is passed by a stone bridge, and the banks on the other side are steep and elevated.

10. A road leads from Alessio to Toli Monastir, the seat of the governor-general of Rum-Ili. It branches off from the road just described on the banks of the river Hismo, and continues to run along that river to Kroya, over a level tract, which is, however, swampy in many places. From Kroya it turns southwards to Tirana. The greatest part of this space is occupied by a range

of high hills which are mostly wooded; as the hills are not steep, the roads are tolerably good. The country which intervenes between Tirana and Elbassan, where the hills attain the elevation of mountains, is much more broken. From the last-mentioned place the road runs eastward in the wide valley of the river Uskomobin to Kukusa; but between this place and Usturga (Sturga) the hilly and precipitous chain of mountains to the W. of the Lake of Ochrida is crossed. Usturga is on the banks of the Kara-Drin, not far from its efflux from the lake, and a good road over a nearly level country leads to the town of Ochrida. Between this town and Tesnia is the great range of the Pindus mountains, and the road in crossing them makes a great circuit. From Tesnia a road leads S.E. to Toli Monastir, and another E. to Perlepie, a considerable place, in which fairs are held which are visited from all parts of Albania and Rum-Ili. This circumstance has given more importance to the road just described than the occasional march of the Turkish troops from Toli Monastir to the different districts of Albania.

11. From the town of Berat a road leads eastward in the valley of the river Chervesta through Kusovije, Pereshnik, Dóbrin, and Dússarli to Voskopolie, where it crosses the Pindus range to Koriji. No particulars are given by the Count respecting this road, but he observes that it is much frequented, being the most direct line of commercial communication between Dúrazzo and Salonichi.

12. Another road leads from Berat to Janina (Joannina) in Epirus. After passing the Chervesta by the stone bridge near Berat, the road runs along the base of the high hills, which extend so close to the river on the S., that, properly speaking, the road lies within its bed. At the end of a few miles it leaves the river, and ascends a moderately elevated hill overgrown with bushes. Entering the mountains at this point, the road continues to lie between high ridges to the very outskirts of the town of Janina. The whole space between the Chervesta and the Voyussa at Klissura is filled up by an extensive mountain-mass, which is only furrowed by narrow glens and ravines, and drained by small rivers. Nearly the whole tract is uninhabited, with the exception of four or five khans built for the accommodation of travellers. From the last of these khans, which is called Jepovo, the road descends a very steep declivity to a small semicircular plain which lies on the Voyussa opposite the town of Klissura. The valley of the river above Klissura is so narrow, that the road has been made over the adjacent hills to the vicinity of the town of Peramiti, where it again descends to the banks of the Voyussa. Even near Peramiti the level space between the river and a very high and steep ridge of hills is of so little extent as to leave only a very

narrow road. Opposite the town of Peramiti the hills recede from the banks of the river, and encircle a plain of some extent, which is well cultivated. Above Peramiti the road at times runs between the banks of the Voyussa and steep hills: at times where they terminate in precipices on the edge of the water it crosses their crests. Upwards of 20 miles from Peramiti the road leaves the valley of the river, and ascends a steep acclivity to a high table-land, on which stands a village called Ostaniji, consisting of more than 100 houses. At some distance behind this place is the crest of the Khimera range, and on it an elevated summit, Mount Jumerka. The mountains are covered with fine forests, and extend for a great distance on an undulating plain, whose surface is only broken by small watercourses. Proceeding southward a fine valley, which may be from 3 to 4 miles wide, and in which the town of Kuniji is situated, is seen on the left. This valley is drained by a river which falls into the Voyussa. Farther on the mountain plain is intersected by ridges, and in one of the depressions is the village of Revenia in a tolerably well cultivated valley. Behind this village the ridges decrease in elevation, and at last give way to the undulating plain, on which the town of Janina is built, on the banks of a lake which is about 4 or 5 miles long. Janina contains a population of about 36,000 individuals, among which are from 6000 to 7000 Jews, and 20,000 Greeks. The houses of this town stand closer together than those of Skutari, but are not so well built.

IV.—*Extract from Baron KOLLER's Itinerary of his Tour to Petra, describing an Inland Route from Mount Sinai to Akabah.**

March 18th, 1840.—Left the convent of Mount Sinai at 4 P.M. From the majestic Wady Raha (about 1400 paces broad, and running N.W.—S.E. to the convent) we turned under the hill of Aaron into the Wady Scheik, 400 paces broad, and running in a north-easterly direction. After marching $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, a violent storm, accompanied by heavy rain, obliged us to pitch our tents.

19th.—The storm continued: the rain, falling in torrents,

* A chart of the route, and a detailed topographical sketch of the vicinity of the monastery at Mount Sinai, accompanied this paper. It has not been deemed necessary to have the route engraved, as the great precision of Baron Koller will enable readers to trace it for themselves on the maps. This account of the most direct route from Sinai to Akabah is a valuable supplement to the information respecting the peninsula of Sinai contained in Ruppell's route from Suez to Akabah, the travels of Count Leon Laborde, and the paper by Mr. Robinson in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, vol. ix. pp. 295-308.—ED.